

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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RABBI SUSSMAN OF BINGHAMTON GIVES OPENING PRAYER

WASHINGTON - Rabbi Lance Sussman of Temple Concord and Binghamton University gave the opening prayer this morning prior to the day's proceedings in the U.S. House of Representatives. Rabbi Sussman was nominated for this honor by U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and subsequently selected by the Office of the Chaplain of the House.

Following the prayer, Hinchey made the following speech in Sussman's honor:

"Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to welcome my constituent, Rabbi Lance Sussman of Binghamton, New York as the guest chaplain. We are honored to have Rabbi Sussman with us this morning to offer the opening prayer for today's session.

"A native of Baltimore, Rabbi Sussman graduated from Franklin and Marshall College. He was ordained at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, where he also earned a PhD in American Jewish History.

"In 1986, Rabbi Sussman was appointed to the faculty of Binghamton University, where he continues to teach Jewish History. He founded his own small press, called Keshet Press, and has published several notable works that document Jewish history in America and, specifically, in upstate New York.

"In 1990, the rabbi was called to lead the Temple Concord in Binghamton. For eleven years, Sussman has served his congregation and his community with great distinction. He established a community food pantry and a seasonal museum called 'Hanukkah House,' which now attracts thousands of school children of all faiths from across our region of New York. Working with Elderhostel, the rabbi has also worked to make a Temple Concord a leading center for adult Jewish education.

"Rabbi Sussman has been called to a new position, as senior rabbi at the Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, where he will begin serving in July. He will be greatly missed by his congregation and the countless other residents of the Binghamton area whose lives he has touched.

"I am proud that this chamber has honored Rabbi Sussman with the opportunity to offer today's opening prayer. It's a wonderful send-off for a fine man and spiritual leader. I hope that you will all join me in welcoming Rabbi Sussman, his wife Liz, their children, family members and congregants."